

St. Louis, MO – Congressman Todd Akin, Chairman of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, expressed dismay in the Senate Armed Services Committee cut to the F/A-18 Super Hornet program. The Senate Armed Services Committee's cut nine of the twenty-eight Super Hornets requested by the Navy in their 2012 budget. Congressman Akin fought for and ensured that the Navy's request for Super Hornets was fully funded in the House version of the defense budget, which passed in May.

Akin released the following statement:

"It is deeply disappointing that the Senate Armed Services Committee decided to cut nine F-18's. This is bad news for the Navy, and bad news for taxpayers. The Navy is facing a strike fighter shortfall, and this cut will only make that shortfall worse. The F-18 is an extremely capable and extremely affordable fighter plane, and is the only option currently available to address the Navy's fighter gap. Cutting these aircraft will hurt the Navy, as the F-18 plays a vital role in our national security.

"This cut is not a done deal. As chairman of the Seapower Subcommittee, I will be involved in the conference negotiations on this bill and I will do everything in my power to reverse this cut and ensure that the F-18 program is fully funded. This is about doing what is best for the U.S. Navy, best for American taxpayers, and best for our national security."